



John F. Sturm
President and CEO

February 10, 2005

The Honorable John Cornyn, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution,
Civil Rights & Property Rights
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

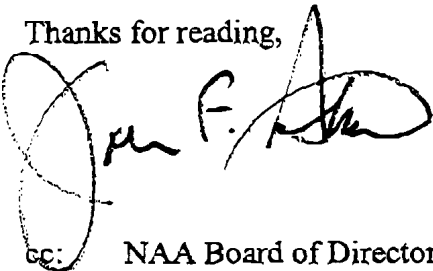
On behalf of the Newspaper Association of America (NAA), a non-profit organization representing more than 2,000 newspapers in the United States and Canada, I want to thank you for introducing the Open Government Act of 2005.

The Freedom of Information Act is premised on the belief that an informed citizenry is essential to democracy. The Open Government Act will strengthen the Freedom of Information Act and send a clear message that the openness and accessibility of the federal government is a vital part of our democratic process.

We commend you for your outstanding leadership, especially with regard to the inclusion of the provisions that would close current FOIA loopholes, prevent new ones, and restore meaningful deadlines for agency action on FOIA requests. Additionally, the legislation will make it easier for the public to access information about their government through the creation of a FOIA ombudsmen, agency FOIA hotlines, and tracking systems for FOIA requests.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months to ensure passage of the Open Government Act of 2005 in the 109th Congress.

Thanks for reading,



cc: NAA Board of Directors
NAA Member Newspapers in Texas

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